IN THE DRAWINGS:

The applicant has submitted concurrently herewith a request for approval of drawing changes in which "Prior Art" label is added to Figures 1A-1H and 2A-2B as marked by red ink. The applicant has also submitted replacement sheets for the amended drawings.

REMARKS

In the office action, the examiner objected to the drawings on the ground that Figures 1A-1H and 2A-2B lack a "Prior Art" legend. Accordingly, the applicant has submitted concurrently herewith a request for approval of drawing changes in which "Prior Art" label is added to Figures 1A-1H and 2A-2B as marked by red ink. The applicant has also submitted concurrently herewith replacement sheets for the amended drawings.

In the office action, the examiner rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. It is stated that recitations in Claims 1, 9, 10, 11, 19 and 20 are unclear. Accordingly, the applicant has amended Claims 1, 9, 11 and 19 to more clearly defined the features of the present invention.

The examiner rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yokota et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,185). The applicant respectfully disagrees with the examiner regarding the interpretation of the technology disclosed by the cited Yokota et al. reference. Nevertheless, the applicant has amended Claims 1 and 11 to more clearly define the present invention in view of the technology disclosed by the cited Yokota el al. reference. The cited Yokota et al. reference does not show or suggest the essential features of the present invention recited in Claims 1 and 11 as discussed below.

As recited in Claims 1 and 11 concurrently amended, the essential features of the present invention reside in the fact that the navigation system (1) detects the condition in which blank scroll will arise when the screen is scrolled, (2) reads the map data ahead in the scroll direction to find any visible object when the blank scroll condition is detected, (3) evaluates the shape point that defines a shape of the visible object to determine whether any part of the visible object should come within a display range of the screen when the screen is further scrolled, and (4) jumps to the location which shows the visible object when any part of the visible object should come within the display range. As defined in Claims 1 and 11, the blank scroll is a situation of the screen in which the screen will not show any visible object thereon when the screen is scrolled in the specified direction.

The cited Yokota et al. reference discloses a display method and apparatus for navigation system which enables a user to operate the navigation system with use of a reduced number of control keys without adversely affecting the safe driving of the vehicle. The feature of the invention disclosed by the cited Yokota et al. reference resides in the fact that switching between the map zoom screen and the map screen is performed by operating only the selection key, and adjustments of the zoom scale in the map zoom screen and the scroll of the map image are conducted by operating only the scroll means. Because of such a special arrangement of

the key functions, the number of keys required for operating the navigation system is substantially reduced.

With respect to the feature (1) noted above, the present invention detects the condition in which blank scroll will arise when the screen is scrolled. The cited Yokota et al. reference shows a scroll operation of the screen, however, it is completely silent about the blank scroll or avoiding the same. Claims 1 and 11 of the present invention define the "blank scroll" as a situation of the screen in which the screen will not show any visible object thereon when the screen is scrolled in the specified direction. Further, the cited Yokota et al. reference does not show anywhere the idea of detecting the condition that arises the blank scroll. Although the examiner indicated Figs. 1A, 1B, 4 and 19 in the office action, these drawings have no relationship with the black scroll or blank scroll condition of the present invention. Therefore, the essential feature (1) of the present invention is not shown or suggested by the cited Yokota et al. reference.

With respect to the feature (2) noted above, the present invention reads the map data ahead in the scroll direction to find any visible object when the blank scroll condition is detected. Although the cited Yokota et al. reference shows a scroll operation of the screen, it is completely silent about the blank scroll or avoiding the same. Further, the cited Yokota et al. reference does not show any idea of finding any visible object when the blank

scroll condition is detected. Although the examiner indicated column 4, lines 1-28, column 5, lines 2-30, column 8, lines 44-60, column 9, lines 33-44, and column 10, lines 3-10, the descriptions in the specified sections of the cited Yokota et al. reference do not have any relationship with the blank scroll, blank scroll condition, or the searches for the visible object. Therefore, the essential feature (2) of the present invention is not shown or suggested by the cited Yokota et al. reference.

With respect to the feature (3) noted above, the present invention evaluates the shape point that defines a shape of the visible object to determine whether any part of the visible object should come within a display range of the screen when the screen is further scrolled. Although the cited Yokota et al. reference shows a scroll operation of the screen, it is completely silent about the blank scroll or avoiding the same. Claims 1 and 11 recite the shape point as a point which defines the shape of the visible object. It is apparent that the cited Yokota et al. reference is completely silent about the shape point of the visible object. Further, the cited Yokota et al. reference does not show any idea of evaluating the shape points of the visible object because the cited Yokota et al. reference does not show any idea of finding the visible object. Although the examiner indicated column 4, lines 1-28, column 5, lines 2-30, column 8, lines 44-60, column 9, lines 33-44, and column 10, lines 3-10, the descriptions in the specified sections of the cited Yokota et al. reference do not have any

relationship with the blank scroll, blank scroll condition, searches for the visible object, or the evaluation of the shape points of the visible object. Therefore, the essential feature (3) of the present invention is not shown or suggested by the cited Yokota et al. reference.

With respect to the feature (4) noted above, the present invention jumps to the location of the visible object when any part of the visible object should come within the display range. Although the cited Yokota et al. reference shows a scroll operation of the screen, it is completely silent about the blank scroll or avoiding the same. Accordingly, the cited Yokota et al. reference does not show any idea of jumping to the location of the visible object to avoid the blank scroll. Although the examiner indicated column 4, lines 1-28, column 5, lines 2-30, column 8, lines 44-60, column 9, lines 33-44 and column 10, lines 3-10, the descriptions in the specified sections of the cited Yokota et al. reference do not have any relationship with the blank scroll, blank scroll condition, the evaluation of the shape points of the visible object, or jumping to the visible object. Therefore, the essential feature (4) of the present invention is not shown or suggested by the cited Yokota et al. reference.

Since none of the essential features of the present invention are shown or suggested by the cited Yokota el al. reference, the applicant believes that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is no longer applicable to the present invention.

In the office action, the examiner rejected Claims 9, 10, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokota et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,185) in view of Adachi (U.S. Patent No. 6,662,101). Claims 9, 10, 19 and 20 include all of the limitations of the base claim, Claim 1 or 11. As discussed above, because the cited Yokota et al. reference does not show or suggest any of the essential features of the present invention defined in Claim 1 or 11, the invention defined by Claims 9, 10, 19 and 20 is not obvious over the cited references taken singly or in combination.

In this opportunity, the applicant has amended the specification to correct the minor wording errors therein. This is to verify that no new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

Under the circumstances, the applicant believes that the present application is in the condition for allowance, and the applicant respectfully requests that the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

MURAMATSU & ASSOCIATES

Dated: 1/9/2006

By: _____

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AMD-AP42.001
010706

Prior Art

Fig. 1A

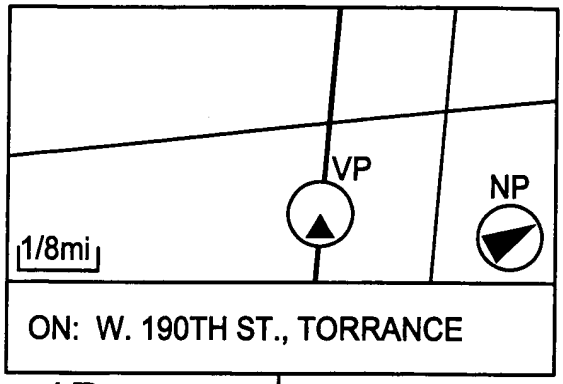


Fig. 1B

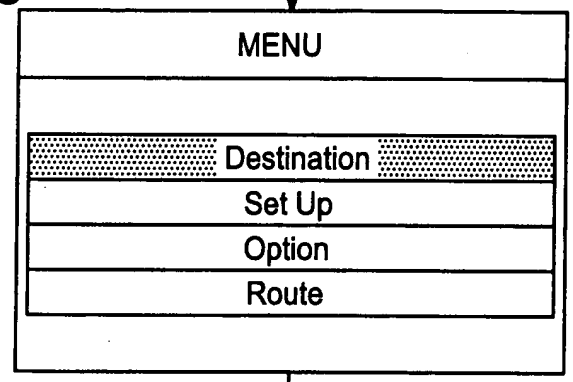


Fig. 1C

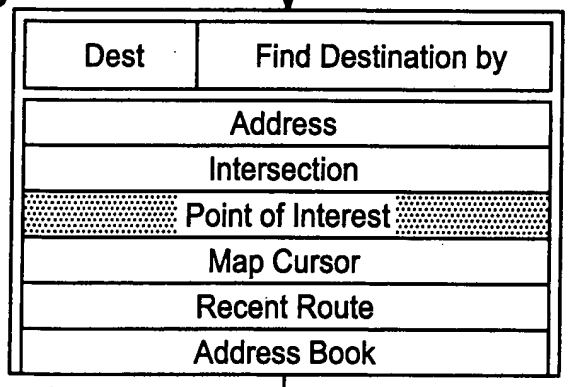


Fig. 1D

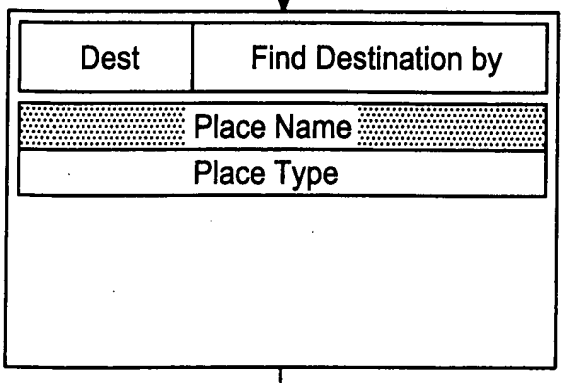


Fig. 1E

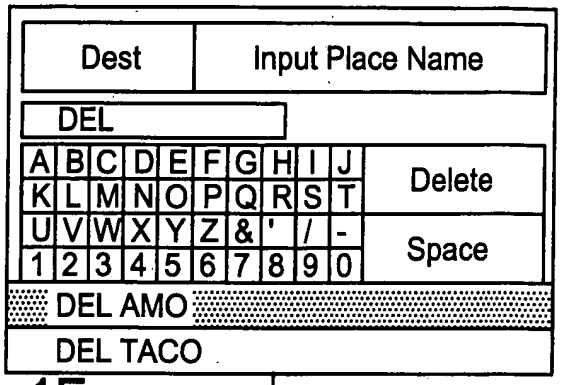


Fig. 1F

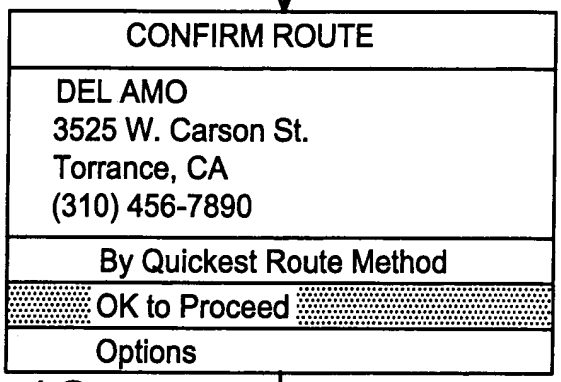


Fig. 1G

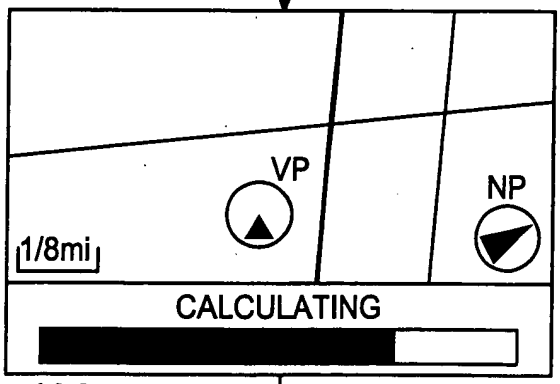


Fig. 1H

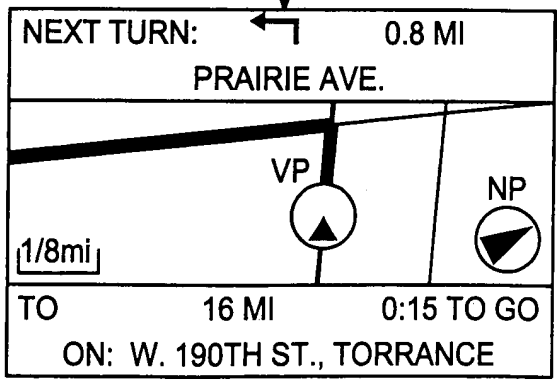
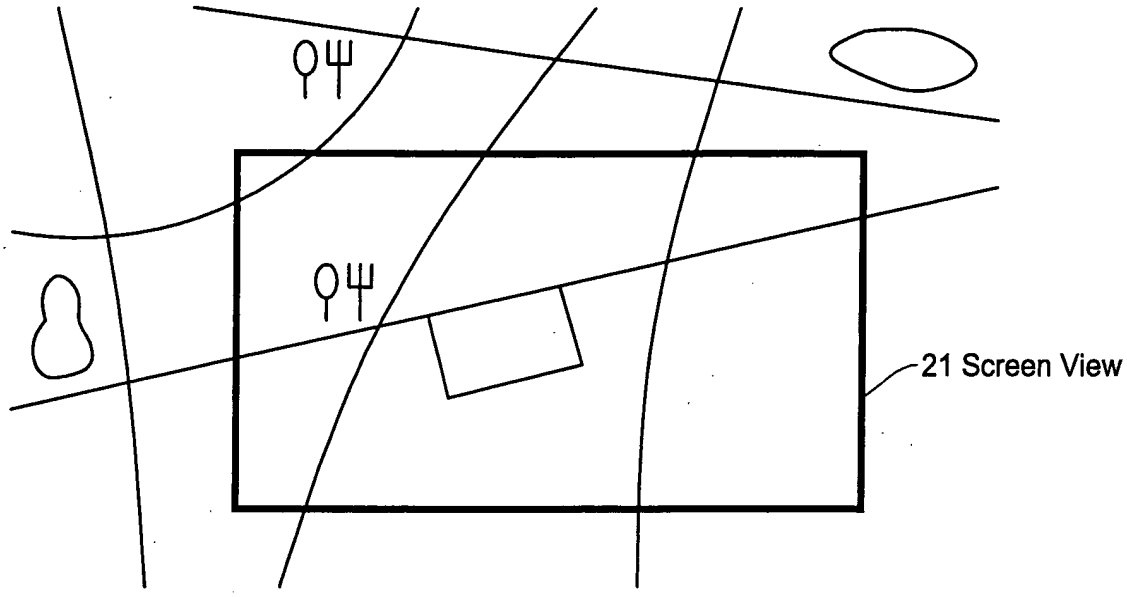


Fig. 2A (Prior Art)



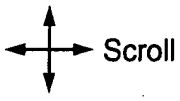


Fig. 2B (Prior Art)